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Contact: Jay Blanton 502-564-2611 502-330-2802

Jill Midkiff

502-564-2611

502-330-1185

GOVERNOR SIGNS STEROIDS BAN INTO LAW

Action safeguards Kentucky horse racing

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Sept. 5, 2008) – Governor Steve Beshear today signed emergency regulations banning anabolic steroids from thoroughbred and standardbred racing in Kentucky. The changes in state law took effect immediately as emergency regulations.

"This is a historic day in Kentucky racing," Gov. Beshear said. "This action demonstrates our commitment to ensuring the integrity of racing and the safety of its competitors."

Under the new law, anabolic steroids may not be present in a horse that is racing. The new rules set forth acceptable levels of the naturally occurring steroids Boldenone, Nandrolone and Testosterone.

A horse may be given one of those steroids only under certain therapeutic conditions, and a horse may not race for at least 60 days afterwards. The Kentucky Horse Racing Commission (KHRC) also must receive a clean test report from an approved lab.

New state laws also strengthen the penalties for anabolic steroids. A violation of the anabolic steroid rule will result in a suspension up to 60 days for the first violation.

There is a qualified 90-day grace period. Veterinarians are advised to discontinue administering anabolic steroids immediately unless they are being used for therapeutic purposes and the horse will not race for at least 60 days. Penalties will be imposed during the grace period if a positive test for anabolic steroid is returned from a sample taken during the last 30 days of the 90-day period and there is evidence that the anabolic steroid was administered in the preceding 60 days.

More information on the new laws is available at the KHRC Web site, http://www.khra.ky.gov/.